

THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

Interesting Facts—The First Fire Organization in Philadelphia—The History of its Formation—The Firemen Before the Revolution—The Companies in Existence Prior to the Declaration of Independence—How and When they were Organized.

Everything connected with the Volunteer Fire Department is of interest at this time, and particularly is this the case with its early history. It is an old institution dating away back of the Revolution, at which time there were nearly twenty companies in service. The first company organized in Philadelphia was

THE UNION FIRE COMPANY. In speaking of the causes which led to the establishment of a Fire Department in Philadelphia, Thompson Westcott, in his History of Philadelphia, which is now being published serially in the Sunday Dispatch, says:—

"The increase of fires in the city as the houses became more numerous and closely built had been for some time a matter of consideration, and the minds of citizens were better prepared for the adoption of some better system of extinguishing them than had yet been possible under the authority of the corporation. This was done by the establishment of a voluntary association of citizens on the 7th of December, 1736, which was called the Union Fire Company."

THE FRIENDSHIP FIRE COMPANY. "In 1748 the members of the Fellowship Fire Company were thirty-three in number. The fire engine belonging to the company was placed in a house on Second street, on a lot belonging to the Friends' Meeting. The ladder was kept under the eaves of the butchers' shambles, on the south side, near the meal market. There were seven other ladders in various other places."

THE BRITANNIA FIRE COMPANY. "The Britannia Fire Company was probably established in 1750 or 1751. The only trace that we have of its existence is in an advertisement which gives a list of some articles lost belonging to that company; this advertisement appeared in April, 1753."

THE NEPTUNE FIRE COMPANY. "The Neptune Fire Company was formed at the house of Mrs. Krider, in Third street. The first meeting noticed was held on Monday, January 17, 1774. All the members were present on that occasion, to wit:—Andrew Geyer, Jacob Kehmle, George Forepaugh, Charles Bitters, George Wert, Andrew Bachman, Charles Miller, William Sheaf, Lawrence Sickle, Andrew Epple, George Honey, Jr., Hillary Baker, Jr. At the time of the breaking up of the Revolutionary war, the company had no engine, the members being supplied with buckets."

THE GERMAN TOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT. "In January, 1764, citizens of Germantown held a meeting at the Town Hall, in order to consult together in regard to the means of protecting themselves from the ravages of fire. They were situated at a considerable distance from the fire apparatus of Philadelphia, and the roads at the time were frequently so bad that no assistance could have been derived from the city fire companies. It was therefore resolved to form three separate fire divisions in Germantown and its neighborhood, and the fire companies which were formed were called the Fellowship, of the Upper ward; Fellowship, of the Middle ward; and Fellowship, of the Lower ward. Subscriptions were taken up to purchase apparatus, and money enough was collected to send to England for three hand fire engines, but by some misfortune the order was not fully completed. When the engines arrived, one went to Bethlehem and the other to Frankford. The companies afterwards received their apparatus, however. In subsequent years, the names of the three companies were changed as follows:—That of the Upper ward, instituted March 1, 1764, was named the Franklin Fire Company; that of the Middle ward, instituted March 5, 1764, was named the Washington Fire Company; and that of the Lower ward, instituted February 20, 1764, was named the Columbia Fire Company."

THE HIBERNIA FIRE COMPANY. "The Hibernia Fire Company was founded at a meeting, held at Evans' tavern, by Hugh Donaldson, Randie Mitchell, Walter Shee, Samuel Wallace, Abram Usher, William Henry, Plunket Fleeson, William West, John Johnson, John Fullerton, Robert Taggart, Benjamin Fuller, George Bryan, James Fullerton, James Mease, James Haldane, James Hunter, Blair McClenachan, John Mitchell, George Fullerton, George Campbell, Samuel Dunfield, Sharp Delany, Edward Batchelor, William Allison, William Burall and William Miller. To these members were added, before 1776, James Caldwell, John White, Henry Hill, John Mease, John Boyle, Francis Nicholas, John M. Nesbit, James Crawford, David H. Coyngham, George Hughes, Michael Morgan O'Brian, Robert Morris, John Brown, and John Nixon. Nearly all of these gentlemen were merchants or tradesmen, and several of them afterwards became conspicuous in public affairs, especially during the Revolutionary war."

THE NORTHERN LIBERTY FIRE COMPANY. "At a meeting, called to form the Northern Liberty Fire Company, Levi Budd was president and William Coates was secretary. The other original members were Charles West, John Stollwagen, Henry Woodrow, Adam Stricker, Martin Nolle, Joseph Cannon, Joseph Rush, James Worrell, Richard Cammer, Richard Mason, Seymour Hart, Thomas Gilbert, Henry Stonemanz, Thomas Felton, William Biddle, Samuel Pryor, John Sattergood, George Leib, Elias Lewis Trichehll, James Novell, John Williams, David Rose, Thomas Britton, Jacob Weaver, Isaac Jones, John Britton, Joseph Cowperthwait, and Thomas Scattergood. These gentlemen were inhabitants of the Northern Liberties. William Coates was a large land-

owner in the district. Levi Budd was a man of means. Seymour Hart was a lumber merchant at Callowhill street wharf. William Biddle lived in Front street, above Callowhill. George Leib was the father of Michael Leib, once a very influential politician. Richard Mason afterwards became a manufacturer of fire engines. Martin Nolle, Adam Stricker, and Elias Lewis Trichehll were inn-keepers. The company met for some time at Trichehll's tavern, sign of Noah's Ark, Front and Noble streets."

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Important Notice. The subscribers have received an importation of HANDKERCHIEFS Similar to those which have just been closed out by them at such low figures. These goods should have arrived some weeks since, in anticipation of Christmas sales. Being rather late, they have determined to close them out at prices which cannot fail to attract attention. PERKINS & CO., 9 South NINTH Street, 12 21 4t PHILADELPHIA. 727 CHESNUT STREET. 727 AT RETAIL. Grand Clearing Sale OF DRY GOODS, Prior to making extensive alterations in the Store. Rare opportunities of securing GREAT BARGAINS adapted to the wants of Families, and substantial gifts for the HOLIDAYS. The entire Wholesale and Retail Stocks are combined, constituting the greatest concentration of BARGAINS in the better class of DRY GOODS ever offered in this city, and all marked down to such extremely low rates as will ensure rapid sales. Strictly One Price. ALEXANDER RICKEY, No. 727 CHESNUT St., 12 15 thstnmp PHILADELPHIA. 1 8 7 0. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS! CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! CHRISTMAS SILKS AND SHAWLS. CHRISTMAS BLANKETS AND QUILTS. CHRISTMAS PIANO AND TABLE COVERS. CHRISTMAS HANDKERCHIEFS AND SKIRTS. CHRISTMAS TABLE CLOTHS, NAPKINS, ETC. ETC. We have a splendid stock of Dry Goods from which to select presents suitable for old or young or middle aged. At Very Reasonable Prices. JOSEPH H. THORNLEY, NORTHEAST CORNER OF EIGHTH and SPRING GARDEN Sts. P. S.—For the accommodation of persons who cannot shop through the day, we will keep open on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday before Christmas. 14 5 thstnmp JOSEPH H. THORNLEY. GEORGE D. WISHAM, No. 7 North EIGHTH Street, Is now prepared to offer one of the largest and best selected stocks of Dress Goods To be found in the city, and will be sold at the LOWEST CASH PRICES. NEW GOODS OPENING DAILY. Eighth Street Emporium for Black Silks! Black Silks! BLACK TAFFETA. BLACK GROS GRAIN, heavy, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2. BLACK GROS GRAIN, wide, \$2. BLACK GROS GRAIN, rich, \$2.25, \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3, \$3.50, \$4, \$4.50, \$5. A SPENDID ASSORTMENT OF IRISH POPLINS. For Bargains call at GEORGE D. WISHAM'S ONE PRICE STORE, No. 7 North EIGHTH Street. Our Motto—Small Profits and Quick Sales. 9 22 ths No. 7 North EIGHTH Street. INDIA SHAWLS AND SCARFS. GEORGE FRYER, No. 916 CHESNUT STREET, Has in store a large and elegant stock of INDIA SCARFS, Also, Silks in Great Variety, With a stock of Rich India and French Fancy Goods, different in style from any in the city. Purchasers of Christmas presents will do well to examine the stock before purchasing. 12 8 IMP. A. J. IANDER, JR., No. 1302 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. 12 8 IMP. B R I C K Y A R D FOR SALE ON LIBERAL TERMS, favorably situated, plenty of Clay, latest improvements, large run of custom. Inquire 110 F. FRONT STREET. 12 21 61

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